AN ACCOUNT OF TERRIBLE Apparitions AND Prodigies,

Which hath been seen both upon Earth and Sea, in the End of Last, and Beginning of this present Year, 1721.

GLASGOW,
Printed by THOMAS CRAWFORD,
and Sold at his Shop a little above the Croſs.
M. DCC. XXI.

BRITISH MUSEUM

An Account of Terrible Apparitions *and* Prodigies *&c.*

AS it is hard to assign the Natural Cause of the manifold Apparitions that from Time to Time are seen in the Firmament of Heaven, so it is equally difficult if they portend Calamities to come upon Mankind; to determine what these Calamities are or when they shall happen; therefore, leaving every Man to Judge of the cause and tendency of the wonderfull Apparitions hereafter mentioned, we confine our selves to a bare Narrative of these strange Appearances, according to the order of Time and the Advices we have had thereof in the publick Gazetts and Newvs Letters of the several Countries vvhere these Prodigies did appear.

IN the Month of *November* last, a Prodigy happned in the *Sea* near the *Island* of *Tercera*, being one of the *Azores* or Western *Islands* about 50 Miles *South East*, from it, where a vast Number of Fires were seen breaking out on the Surface of the *Sea*, with a most violent Impetuosity

petuosity, throwing up pumice stones and other Combustibles, and has formed an *Island* of nine *Miles* long and as many broad, of a Considerable height with five Vulcanoes, or burning Muntains upon it, making a most hideous Noise like *Thunder*, or great *Guns*, and a Cloud proceeding from it, breaking into small Rain of Sand instead of Water. This Prodigy was first seen on the 12 of the said *Month*, by a Ship belonging to the *Island* of *Madera*, coming from *Brazil*, who thought at first it had been a Water spout; but coming nearer it, saw a prodigious flashing of Fire which smelled of *Brimstone*, and heard a Most astonishing Noise; afterwards a vast quantity of Fish was perceived dead on the *Sea*, and appeared broiled; Sailing a little further, met such a quantitie of pumice stones that it was hardly possible to make way through them; at the same time they did not discern Land, but it made to them as a Cloud of Fire and Smoke, on the Surface of the *Sea*, for about a *Mile* and a half in length, and the said Cloud ascending into the Air, distilled into showers of Rain, Which brought aboundance of Sand on their Ships Deck; and being nigh the flashes of Fire, and hearing the Noise, they Were under great Consternation, but it pleased God

to ſend them a little breeze of Wind that brought them from it, and at that time it appeared to be nothing of Land above Water, but ſince by Deſcription of Mr. *JOHN ROBINSON*, Maſter of a Pink Snovv of Piſcatag, Who Sailed round it on the 20 of *December* laſt, it is become an *Iſland* of the length and breadth aforſaid, and they Were ſo very nigh it, becalmed, that the Aſhes proceeding from the vaſt Fire fell on there Deck, and they were in no ſmall Danger thereby. The Governour of *Tercera* told the ſaid Captain *Robinſon*, that the Irruption happned on the 20*th* of *November* laſt, and that it cauſed a great Earth quake in the ſaid *Iſland*, which threw down a great many Houſes in the City of *Angra*, and the Adjacent parts.

ON the 25. *November* laſt early in the Morning, great Lights appeared over the City of *Briſtol* in *England*, the ſtreams whereof came down to the Houſes, ſo that it ſeemed, as if the City had been on Fire, and as if the flames had aſcended up from it, which made the Watch cry out *Fire*. Much about the ſame Time there appeared at *Ley* upon *Mendip* in *Somerſet Shire* ſuch ſtreaming Lights of Fire and Smoke towards the North, as was very aſtoniſhing to theſe who ſaw it. It was obſerved particularly by the *Coliers* of *Mendip* hills, four or five Mills from the forſaid Town.

ON

On the 14th of *January*, last between the Hours of 11 and 12 at Night, a great Globe of Fire was seen passing over the City of *Bern* in *Switzerland*, which fell to the Ground about six Miles distant from the City. Next Night about the same Time, the like was seen again. And in the Night betwixt the 16 and 17 of said Month, was perceived a great Pillar of Fire standing over the Mountains, near that City, to the West-ward of its Fortifications, which advancing by little and little toward the City, burst at length, without making any great Noise, and then three Globes of Fire was seen to Issue out of it, which took each of them a different Way, and at length disappeared. The like terrible Apparition was seen the 6th *Feb.* at *Frankfort* in *Germany*, which made its Progression North-wards toward the Mountains, and then evanished.

On the 19th of *February*, at the City of *Rennes* in the North of *France*, between 8 and 9 in the Evening, the Moon being then 4 or 5 Days after the Change, appeared on a sudden much Larger than usual, moved off West-ward, leaving behind it a luciferous and transparent Cloud, which in length reached from East to West, and was Broder than a common Rain-bow, thro' the same were distinctly seen, several Stars; behind it were soon after perceived, diverse Stripes much Brighter, and by their Position, some-what resembling a row of Organ Pipes, which taking Fire on a sudden, seemed to strick each other in a violent Manner, sending forth over the first Cloud, and in the adjacent Air, Flames, the

Colour

Colour and Vibrations of which were very terrible About Nine, the great Fire disappeared, and from that Time till Eleven, we only saw Rays of Light, which intermixing or running into each other, represented a kind of Flight, after which they evanished, and were succeeded immediately by others: The same Phœnomenon or Appartion, having suddenly redoubled its Agitation, without assuming either a new Form or Colour, there gushed out of it, with surprising Impetuosity, white Flames, which entirely filled the Air; and were the more affecting and terrible to the Inhabitants of the said City, in that there were a lively Picture of the terrible Conflagration which happened there in the Month of *December* preceeding, by which 800 Houses were Burnt down to the Ground. About Twelve, the Motions of these white Flames abated, and the great white Cloud moving off East-ward, the Fire went out entirely, and the great Light was succeeded by thick Darkness.

16 MA 61